



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	9/01/2005	Interpretation #	05-021
Topic	One-hour fire-resistive exterior walls		
Code Section(s)	2001 CBC Section 504.6.1		
Requested by	Dennis Mathisen City of Roseville F.D. 401 Oak St. Suite 402 Roseville, CA 95678		

Section 504.6.1 of the California Building Code—2001 Edition, has been amended/added to by the SFM to state “Area separation walls shall not be considered to create separate buildings for the purposes of automatic fire sprinkler system requirements as set forth in Chapter 9.” Can this section of the CBC be interpreted to mean that in the case of attached R-3 occupancies such as “row houses”, that the one-hour fire resistive exterior bearing wall required by Table 5-A of the CBC due to proximity to a property line essentially creates an area separation wall and as such, would create a multiple unit single building?

No. In this circumstance the one-hour fire resistive walls do not create an area separation wall.

If the answer is yes, can these buildings then be mandated to be protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems as the use, construction, and thus fire and life safety risk is the same as an R-1 occupancy?

N/A